The Office that Barton Malow Built...

By Mary E. Kremposky, Associate Editor

Pure creativity and computer-aided design shaped the tilted and uniquely angled curtain wall of this distinctive building.

Barton Malow's new headquarters rises just beyond the graceful sway of cattails and the expansive ponds and sedges of an 18.39-acre wetland. The blue expanse of curtain wall ascends a full four stories, shimmering in the light like water in the ponds below. An elliptical atrium splits the blue sheen of glass curtain wall into two distinct sections; both tilt downward and turn outward at a skewed angle away from the central atrium. The curtain wall's inspired geometry creates a structure like no other in the region.

The building's architectural merit and sheer physical beauty is a fitting complement to the natural grace of the surrounding wetland. Both are integrally linked; the wetland itself inspired Barton Malow Design to shape the glass curtain wall and atrium to take full advantage of this peaceful view of ponds and plants. An engaging skin of precast brick panels clads three sides of the 110,000-square-foot structure. Installed in only two weeks in the chill of late winter, the selection and installation of this system showcases the innovation and efficiency of the 78-year-old Barton Malow Company.

Barton Malow poured the cumulative experience and skill of over three-quarters of a century in the building industry into the design and construction of this singular house of glass, brick and light. In 1924, the crew of the C.O. Barton Company - the forerunner of the Barton Malow Company - first opened their toolboxes and began renovating the interior of the Michigan Bell Telephone Co. offices. In September 2000, the company that built the foundations for Ford Motor's River Rouge plant and constructed the University of Michigan Hospital and Domino's Farms, as well as innumerable schools, hospitals and offices throughout Michigan and across the country, finally broke ground on their own home.

THE POWER OF PLANNING

Barton Malow's distinctive new headquarters is a celebration of the power of

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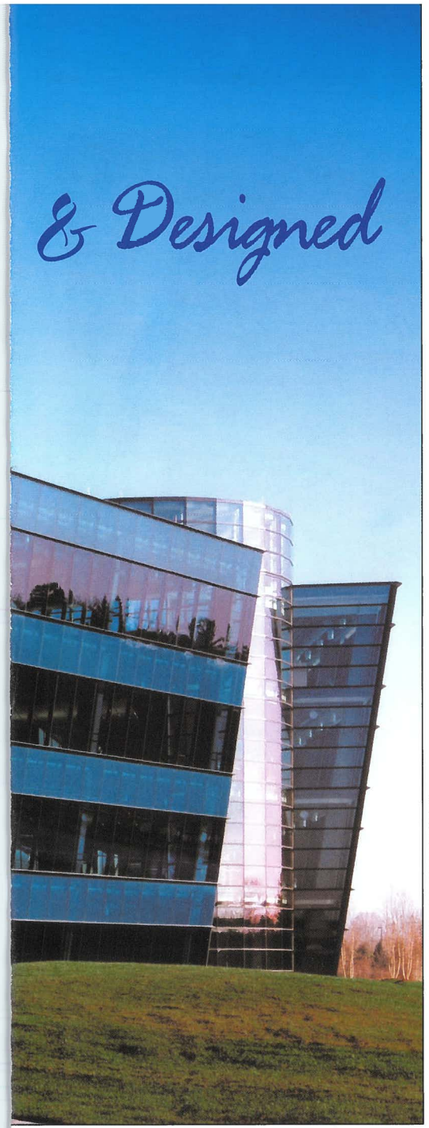

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design and the craft of construction. From well-planned and efficient project management to computer-aided design and cost balancing, Barton Malow used all the tools of the trade in their "corporate toolbox" to build their new headquarters at 26500 American Drive in Southfield.

"The building fortifies the importance of project planning," said Ben C. Maibach, III, Barton Malow president and CEO. "We always inform our clients of the importance of project planning. Define some parameters and lay out a plan; do not just react. Likewise, for ourselves, we outlined the broad project objectives, spelled out a realistic budget and schedule, and formulated an approach to getting the job done

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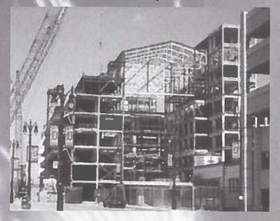

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Showcasing Barton Malow's long tradition in the concrete arena, concrete columns and concrete waffle slab ceilings serve as a structural frame and as exposed finish elements in the building interior.

with a Headquarters Building Committee and various task teams to manage the process."

Maibach lists the four objectives that shaped their new corporate home: "We wanted a building clearly differentiated from other buildings, a structure with cost sensitivity, a building that took advantage of the unique site, and a progressive headquarters that showed leadership and forward thinking."

Barton Malow clearly succeeded in creating a signature building that more than meets the stated objectives, and better communicates the firm's national stature as one of the leading design/build and construction management companies in the United States. The firm's new corporate headquarters is also a fine demonstration of the delicate art of cost balancing. "The building has a feeling of quality but it is not ostentatious," said Maibach. "I think if we were overly extravagant or if a feature looked 'cheap' we would lose that all important cost balance that we routinely provide to our clients. I think the building is progressive and forward thinking in a smart manner. It is not glitzy or loud, rather it has stature, sophistication and class."

Following the Maibach plan, Barton Malow achieved its budget and schedule, using tight, well-coordinated control procedures. "The total investment, including property, furniture, artwork, and accessories was approximately $22 million," said Douglas Maibach, PE, Barton Malow vice president, project executive, and chairperson of the Headquarters Building Committee. Construction began in September 2000 and the firm opened the doors to their new facility in November 2001 - in time to meet the conditions of its expiring lease in the American Center, a towering high-rise located almost directly across American Drive from Barton Malow's new headquarters.

Barton Malow's new corporate headquarters rises almost directly across the roadway from the firm's former offices in the American Center. By fall 2001, the concrete frame structure with a steel-framed roof was clad in glass and brick and the once frozen wetland was filled with plants and bird life.

STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

A walk across the street has made a world of difference to the Barton Malow Company. The firm had been a tenant in the American Center Building for over fourteen years, eventually spreading its growing operations over four different and widely separated floors. Tremendous growth in staff, new services, and new project teams led to some very tight quarters and nearly $1 million dollars in churn costs needed for the almost constant reconfiguring of space. Opportunity knocked in the form of a soon-to-expire lease.

Two years before the lease's expiration in November 2001, Barton Malow enlisted the services of Grant Thornton to study the financial feasibility of constructing their own building, said Sheryl Maibach, FSMPS, Barton Malow vice president and a key member of the Headquarters Building Committee. The benefits were clear: Barton Malow could own its own building free and clear in only ten years. "Besides being a great place to work, the building will have a very positive, long-term impact on the bottom line," said Sheryl Maibach.

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Barton Malow elected to purchase a parcel just under 9 acres only a few hundred feet from the American Center. The site allows Barton Malow to enjoy the best of both worlds: a central location in the heart of southeastern Michigan and an idyllic view of one of the few remaining nature preserves in the tri-county area. At the time of purchase, however, this aquatic slice of paradise - today dotted with sandpipers, mallards, Canadian geese and great blue herons - was only a small wetland owned by Jonna Development. Jonna, the City of Southfield, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality began expanding the natural wetland into a larger body of water and adding natural plantings and a wooden boardwalk only shortly before Barton Malow's purchase. "The wetland was under creation when we bought this property," said Doug Maibach. "In the very beginning, we had no idea that it was going to look as beautiful as it does."

PROTECTING MOTHER NATURE

Barton Malow's conscientious measures protected this fragile urban wetland from damage during and after construction. With the building taking shape close to the water's edge, Barton Malow installed almost every known barrier and technology to manage storm water and block deposition of disturbed soil. Double silt fencing, straw bale berms, rolling swales, and drainage trenches all prevented erosion and channeled runoff away from the wetland. Limiting the amount of grading reduced the quantity of bare soil subject to erosion and maintained more vegetation to anchor the soil, according to written information provided by Barton Malow. Eliminating the use of wood treated with heavy metals also shielded the waterway from harm. The reward was the presence of swallows, goldfinches and herons - and even the birth of a fawn in late May.

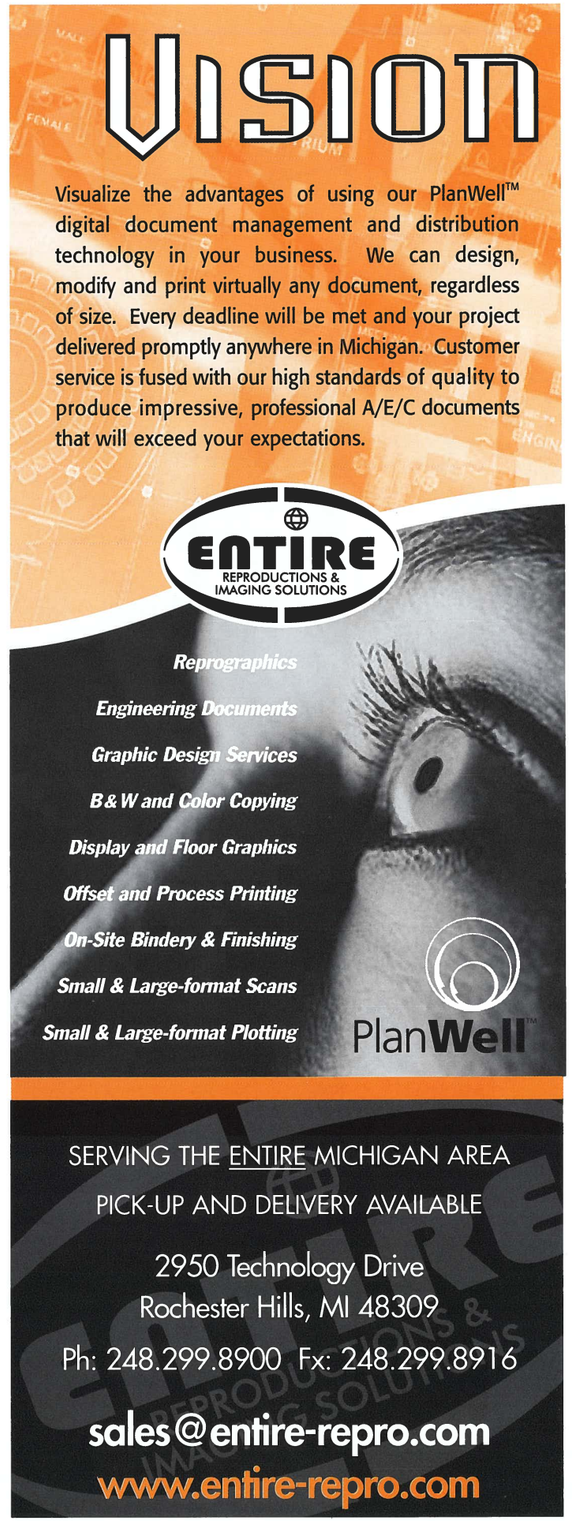
"Installing standpipes also helped filter and slow the entrance of any storm water runoff into the wetland," said Doug Maibach. "We used the capacity of the pipes underground to store some of the water and prevent any sudden surges. Standpipes create a head pressure the water must pass through to exit, thereby the pipes allow the water to drain in a slower manner versus just hitting the wetland and adding sediment to the ponds."

The building itself replenishes the aquatic environment. A dedicated drainage system (two slightly pitched pipes located beneath the ceiling of the fourth floor) directs rainwater from the roof into the wetland. Conversely, storm water from the parking lot is channeled away from the wetland, preventing the deposition of oil, salt and other harmful substances into this delicate natural preserve.

Many of these measures exceeded federal and state environmental regulations. In addition, Barton Malow actually deeded 50 feet of its property at the water's edge back to the City of Southfield as a conservation easement, added Sheryl Maibach. Today, all can walk the length of an elevated wooden boardwalk and enjoy the baritone croak of bullfrogs and the abundant bird life in this rare enclave in the middle of metropolitan Detroit.

SmithGroup JJR and Sunset Excavating were among the many Michigan firms who helped expand the wetland. Grissim/Metz Associates, Inc. designed Barton Malow's landscape of soft, undulating berms that help protect the wetland from storm water runoff and add visual appeal to the site. Inland Lakes installed the lush landscaping cradling the building, including the eighty blue spruce trees lining the curved entrance drive and the 64,280 black-eyed susans and other native plants that complement the adjacent wetland.

Protecting this fragile urban wetland is only part of Barton Malow's environmental efforts in the industry. Barton Malow is a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A soaring elliptical atrium fills the interior with natural light and offers a tranquil view of the adjacent wetland. The confluence of building and wetland allows Barton Malow to enjoy rare "lakefront" property in the middle of metropolitan Detroit.

A WARM COCOON

Despite its location adjacent to a wetland, the building rests on good clay soil. "The wetland is well contained within its borders, offering a site with minimal ground water infiltration that permitted installation of conventional spread footings and foundations," said Doug Maibach.

The building itself is concrete frame construction with a steel-framed roof. Barton Malow self-performed all concrete work, placing 4,600 cubic yards of concrete during the winter months and employing, for the first time, diesel-fueled, turbine engine-powered Jetheat as temporary heat. "New on the market in early 2001, these heaters generated up to 600,000 BTU for warmth and 1 kW of 12-volt power for lighting," according to information provided by Barton Malow. The self-contained heaters warm work areas and materials evenly, and most importantly, generate its own electricity.

Despite winter's icy grip, Jetheat created a balmy cocoon for the casting of the waffle slab concrete ceilings on the first three floors. Three Jetheat units placed under the deck warded off frigid zero degree temperatures and warmed three, separate 8,500-square-foot sections to a constant temperature of 60 degrees F. "As a newer technology, diesel fuel jet heaters heat an enclosure very efficiently and have proven to be a safe and effective means of supplying temporary heat," said Doug Maibach.

INTUITION AND COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN

Jetheat permitted pouring of the waffle ceilings, while computer-aided design assisted in the installation of the curtain wall's multiple angles. The skewed angle provides more wetland frontage; the tilt or slope directs the view downward into this watery haven for bird and plant life. "The massing of the building is oriented around the wetlands and is placed to overlook the wetland," said Algis Bublys, FAIA, project designer. "The glass was tilted to orient your view downward. The placement of the curtain wall was almost an intuitive decision."

The intuitive and linear, the creative and pragmatic combined to create this beautiful wall of sloped glass. The curtain wall leans over the wetland, every floor projecting two feet beyond the floor below to create a façade with a two to 12 degree angle, said Bublys. Today's computer-aided total stations and transits eased the strain of shaping the tilted and skewed angles of this intricate wall of glass.

"Thank God for computer-aided design," said Doug Maibach. "We utilized computerized total stations for all our layout and controls. We were literally able to load and set all the control points of the building into the computerized total station and transit and lay it out from any point we set on the building. Had we built this twenty years ago, before computer-aided total stations and transits were invented, it would have been a very difficult layout and control job. But we were able to lay it out rather expeditiously with today's technology."

The load of the tilted and angled columns is transferred, both vertically and horizontally, back to the conventional frame of the main building. "Basically, the columns are restrained or pulled back by the rest of the building's square, vertical 90-degree grid," said Doug Maibach.

The devil was truly in the details. Making the custom details linking the sloped curtain wall to the building's square, vertical grid was one of the project's most challenging tasks. "The connection back to the vertical needed to be able to accept the angle change," said Maibach.

... "Also, when you are setting these columns on the foundation, you must set it in a proper frame relative to the 90-degree square grid. ...Algis had the vision, but to make that vision work the other architects, engineers, and the people performing the concrete form work, the steel placement, the glazing, and the framing all had to properly execute the details that made that vision a reality."

The view of this unique building and its 13,600-square-foot glass curtain wall will never be obscured by other structures, inspiring Barton Malow to create a memorable structure on the edge of this protected wetland. The wetland displays the building, while from the building interior, the curtain wall and atrium serve as a four-story canvas of glass, a living panorama of water, sky and bird life filling the building with light and the peace of the natural world.

The curtain wall's custom details aid in bringing this idyllic vista to life. On the building interior, special I-shaped, custom extrusions decrease the thickness of the mullions. "In most cases, the mullion is covered by an aluminum 'box,'" said Bublys. "We decided to eliminate that and express the structure, making the curtain wall appear fairly light. Projections on the curtain wall exterior are also custom designed and extruded and make the curtain wall less bulky."

This shimmering wall of slanted glass also has a pragmatic function, i.e. the sun hits the tilted glass at a more forgiving angle, reducing the heat load. "The different angle and the little protruding projections or eyebrows on the curtain wall exterior both play a role in putting the façade into shadow more quickly," said Bublys.

BUILDING A FAÇADE IN TWO WEEKS

The other building elevations are clad in an engaging façade of brick panels layered in alternating bands of muted red and purple and in two sizes, 4-by-8 and 8-by-8. The brick panels and the surrounding natural landscaping lend this national corporate headquarters a warm and welcoming aura. The brick precast panels also demonstrate Barton Malow's use of one of the most important tools in the builder's toolbox: the pragmatic art of problem solving. Faced with an expiring lease, Barton Malow installed the precast panels with encapsulated brick in only two weeks in late winter.

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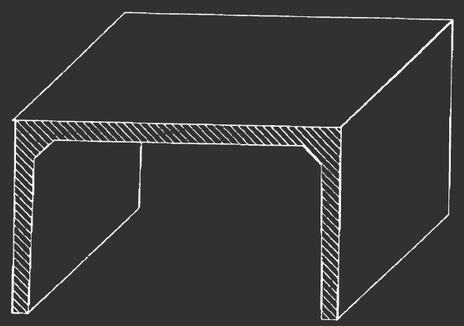

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exterior wall. Bublys explains the actual production method: "The fabricator cleaves a regular brick in half and uses both halves. The bricks are placed in a form, the fabricator pours concrete over it, and then vibrates the form to allow the first layer of concrete to soak into the joints." Added Doug Maibach, "The first layer is a dark concrete that simulates the appearance of mortar in the joint. Regular concrete is then laid to create the full depth of the precast concrete panel."

The panels are a unitized system swiftly installed with the aid of a crane. Each of the main panels is two stories high, allowing the formation of the entire height of the four-story wall with only two stacked panels. "When the panels arrived on site, the skin was quickly assembled like a big jigsaw puzzle," said Maibach.

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD

A well-crafted glass entry breaks the brick façade and greets the visitor to Barton Malow's new headquarters. Like the curtain wall on the south elevation, the entry is marked by a sophisticated geometry that distinguishes the building from the common place. A steel ellipsis projects from the lobby interior and serves as a point of attachment for the entrance canopy directly below - a rectangular expanse of steel and glass that cantilevers roughly 20 feet over the entry drive without any supporting columns or posts. Completing the entry ensemble, a triangular slice of Barton Malow's third-floor executive boardroom projects from the building face above. Shaped like a 90-degree right triangle, the three angles of the glass outcropping converge to a single point at the west end, creating another daunting but successful detailing, fabrication and installation challenge.

The sophisticated entry is an apt introduction to the interior's quality design. The ellipsis flows into the lobby and echoes the grand 55-foot-high elliptical atrium that opens just beyond the lobby and a short corridor. This soaring glass atrium forms the heart of the new headquarters as it rises straight through the core of the building and fills the interior with natural light. A self-supporting monumental stair rises four floors, offering an unfolding view of the beautiful wetland and a full view of every department and division throughout the building interior.

"The atrium's purpose is to unify the whole firm," said Bublys. "It penetrates four floors, allowing people to overlook the atrium railing on each floor and make

contact with others or meet on the stair, which promotes vertical communication between floors."

Like much of the interior, the monumental stair is built of exposed structural elements assembled with fine attention to detail. Stainless steel and glass railings and stair treads and landings of flame-finished granite form the well-crafted stair. "The welds, the grinding, the painting, and the installation of the stainless steel rails and glass were all done to a very high level of quality and in a very coordinated fashion," said Doug Maibach.

The vertical risers, formed of a perforated plate cut in a custom pattern, add to the atrium's sense of openness. "Without the perforated risers, visually, it would become a much heavier stair," said Bublys. "The risers make it appear much lighter and enable one to sense people and light beyond the stair."

Together, the open atrium and stair serve as a type of corporate commons and a platform for enjoying the best view from any office interior in southeastern Michigan. The blue of water and sky and a fringe of green trees pour into the building through the atrium and curtain wall glass. A living carpet of plant life, including the yellow blooms of a host of black-eyed susans that flower in late summer, is visible through this 55-foot-high glass tableau. "As part of the design plan, the pattern of this curved swath of native flowers becomes more apparent as one climbs the stair," said Bublys.

Likewise, the building's two corner stairs are both enclosed in glass curtain wall systems, creating a comfortable space filled with natural light. "The monumental stair with its clear sight lines to all floors helps with communication throughout the company," said Doug Maibach. "But all three stairs in the building are open, friendly, and filled with natural light. We wanted to make the exchange between floors as easy and as comfortable as possible. You need a space that promotes collaboration when you work in a team environment."

Overall, the building contains 27,640 square feet of low E glass, including the floor-to-ceiling punch windows drawing in light along the building perimeter. Beyond the magic of glass and light, the atrium and building interior honor the craft of building with its exposed concrete, steel, and HVAC ductwork. The atrium possesses an industrial elegance, a pleasing contrast of the rough and refined that permeates the entire interior. "It is almost raw construction and that was the intent," said Bublys. "The rawness was intended to actually show what we do in terms of steel, concrete, and refined finishes."

An exposed metal deck ceiling, painted white to reflect light, forms the exposed atrium roof deck. Showcasing Barton Malow's long tradition in the concrete arena, unfinished concrete columns and concrete waffle slab ceilings are clearly visible from the open atrium and throughout the interior. The waffled ceiling has often been used in parking structures as an economical material able to span relatively long distances with a fairly narrow thickness, said Bublys. Barton Malow selected waffled concrete ceilings, a material not commonly used in office buildings, as an innovative finish material.

"It has a solid yet graceful feel to it," said Bublys. "Adding a touch of lighter sand to the concrete mix gives the concrete used in the interior a lighter feel and a bit of a beige cast."

Complementing the exposed concrete, the atrium floor is clad in gray, flame-finished granite with a single accent stripe of polished black stone. Likewise, light and

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delicate maple wood paneling accents the walls and cabinetry of the interior, contrasting with the raw steel and concrete of the interior.

A cantilevered canopy, steel ellipsis and a triangle of glass mark the main entrance. Precast brick panels - installed in only two weeks - clad three sides of this intricately designed and expertly built structure.

THE ART OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Honest, open, and exposed, the interior artfully displays the hidden ductwork and conduit that makes a building hum with heat and light. Exposed construction required Barton Malow to carefully plot the appearance and placement of every component, ranging from the electrical conduit to the proper alignment of the HVAC supply ducts.

What seems a simple, orderly placement of multiple layers of building infrastructure is the result of a rigorous quality control process. Each subcontractor submitted plans and coordinated their efforts with each other and with the original design intent to ensure the appearance of the finished interior. "Every anchor, every hole that was drilled into that concrete was thought about, planned, and carefully considered," said Doug Maibach. "Everything fit within its coordinated space, unlike the typical semi-controlled chaos above a finished ceiling."

Careful planning paid off in an attractive interior and in swift installation as well. "It was so well thought out we didn't have any interferences in the field," continued Maibach. "...Through computer-aided design, the system was plotted and tried before it was ever actually installed. CAD and strong coordination yielded good results during installation. If you spend time upfront, people doing the installation can fly, creating a much more productive job in the end."

Transforming infrastructure into an appealing finished product required installing pipe joints with self-sealing gaskets rather than conventional, unsightly seals. In addition, the exposed HVAC supply stubs line up perfectly from floor to floor, an alignment that is clearly visible from the exterior. Creating this perfect alignment required "Limbach Mechanical to generate a computer overlay and experiment with ceiling plans for all four levels, as visualized from all four levels," according to information provided by Barton Malow. The overlay was necessary given the fact that the sloped curtain wall creates progressively larger floors as one ascends the building, requiring HVAC stubs of different lengths on different levels.

The placement of all building infrastructure was examined and thoroughly planned, resulting in the perfect marriage of beauty and utility that marks the interior. "We wanted to display the level of design, control and quality of construction that we are capable of performing," said Doug Maibach. The Barton Malow mantra throughout the project's design and construction was: "This is who we are, this is what we do, and this is how we do it," he added.

In terms of innovative infrastructure, the building contains extremely high efficiency T5 lamps in the general spaces, a SMED Nexus Floor System - a two-inch raised floor for power and communication wiring on the first level - and SMED demountable partitions in enclosed office spaces. Packed with electrical wiring, this reusable wall system speeds initial construction and permits swift reconfiguration in the future. Classified as furniture, the movable wall system depreciates in seven years, offering a significant tax advantage, according to information provided by Barton Malow.

The building also contains a series of magnetized doors that open and close in the event of a fire, added Bublys. In general, municipal fire code only allows a three-story atrium, however by subdividing the first floor near the cafeteria with these specialty doors, Barton Malow was able to meet code and still retain a full-scale atrium.

In addition, Barton Malow introduced a custom piece of infrastructure that has remedied what is often the bane of the open office environment: the lack of sound control. Like saving angels, white, wing-like acoustic panels or "clouds" are suspended over the workstations on the first three floors. For a time, the Barton Malow team literally had its head in the clouds trying to select the best material, configuration and placement of these custom panels. "The end product is a rigid insulation that is bent, adhered to a fiberglass backing, and then fabric wrapped," said Bublys.

The dual-purpose clouds absorb sound and disperse light, reducing distracting conversations and computer glare. "Integrated Interiors did a wonderful job," said Doug Maibach. "The clouds work much better than we had ever hoped. You don't readily hear conversations between people two cubicles away and you aren't distracted by a conversation on the other side of an area."

The superior sound-absorbing quality of the panels saved Barton Malow the cost of purchasing and installing noise-canceling systems. "We had noise canceling systems budgeted at one time," said Maibach. "We never had to use that portion of our budget given the effectiveness of the clouds."

Deeply concerned about sound control in an open office environment, Barton

Malow chose workstation fabrics based on their sound absorption properties, ultimately selecting Haywood's Premise line, said Sheryl Maibach. Maibach was directly responsible for employee amenities, the fitness center, library, and the corporate art collection, as well as employee communications and public relations for the new facility.

In planning the switch from a predominately fixed to an open office, Barton Malow also added white noise to the HVAC system to mask sound. Increasing the number of conference rooms for private or small discussions is another strategy used to foster amicable work relations in an open office environment. "The facility has small conference rooms for four people and some able to hold up to thirty people," said Maibach. "In addition, the building also has a few isolated rooms for private phone conversations."

Employee comfort was a strong factor in the selection of acoustic, light and HVAC systems. "Mechanically, the building contains many individual zones for control even though it's a very open space," said Bublys.

Likewise, the interior allotment of workspace expresses the corporate values of this large, family organization. "Workspace was assigned based on job function alone, rather than title, position, pay grade or tenure, said Sheryl Maibach. An example of an unorthodox office arrangement was assigning some of the largest workstations in the company to estimators. "Estimators work with full-size drawings on a daily basis," said Maibach. "Because the function of their job requires working with multiple sets of drawings, it made sense to give them larger workstations with wider counters as a way of helping them do their job more efficiently."

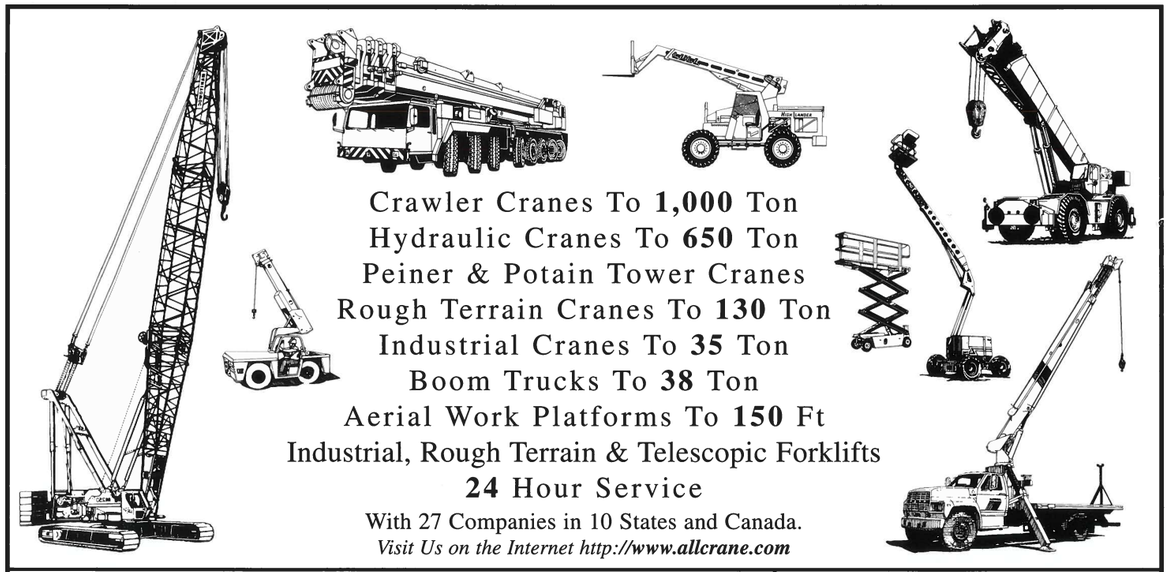
In the traditional company, executive offices would most likely front the stunning views overlooking the wetland. But nobody owns a view of the sky at the Barton Malow Company. "Many people are surprised that with a view that gorgeous why aren't the executive offices along that wall," said Maibach. "In fact, the executive offices face the parking lot, because part of our corporate values is employee importance. We wanted the view to be available to everybody, so we have no offices along the wetlands. Anybody can walk along it at any time on all the floors."

Direct employee participation shaped every facet of the new headquarters. Barton Malow organized six different employee committees devoted to technology and communication, workstations, arts and aesthetics, food service, communications, and move management.

Under the direction of Sheryl Maibach, the Arts & Aesthetic Committee selected 144 original or signed limited edition pieces for the new headquarters. At ground level, the atrium houses an intricate Moroccan tapestry and an antique stone lion from a demolished train station in Chicago. Many original watercolors and oils depicting natural scenes accent the building's light and dark gray walls. "Art warms the environment," said Maibach. "We view the building as a home away from home, given that people often spend more time at the office than at home."

IT & CONSTRUCTION

Barton Malow's new headquarters is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Barton Malow's new corporate headquarters opened to glowing reviews. The structure has already earned a national award from the Design-Build Institute of America, an Engineering Society of Detroit Award, and the honor of being designated Development of the Year by the City of Southfield.

gorgeous, well crafted and extremely well wired. Barton Malow's progressive Internet Protocol system links all six regional offices and roughly forty job sites into a wide area network, one of the largest of any construction company in the United States, according to Phil Go, Barton Malow's chief information officer.

The forty job sites and the Chantilly, Virginia, Baltimore, Maryland, and the new Southfield headquarters are linked via a combined voice and data network. This information technology creates a video conferencing system with the capability of transmitting training classes live, permitting groups in different offices to rehearse a power point presentation or simply conduct meetings. All assembled parties can see and hear one another on one screen and view the contents of a plugged-in laptop simultaneously on another screen. The video conferencing room also has a small wireless network, added Go.

In addition, Barton Malow has a progressive Voice IP (VoIP) system that combines the traditional phone network with a data network, creating a unified messaging system capable of integrating voicemail, e-mail and fax. "For example, voice mail is fed into every person's computer," explains Go. "The person clicks on an individual's phone number that appears on his PC screen, and - if the person chooses to set it up in this way - the voice mail messages can play out loud through the PC." Under this system, mid-Atlantic offices can talk without incurring toll charges, but the main advantage is efficiency and ease of operations.

Barton Malow has earned several awards from the IT industry. In March 2002, Computer World Magazine named Barton Malow as one of the premier 100 IT leaders across the globe. The most well-respected publication in the IT industry, CIO Magazine, recently recognized Barton Malow for IT excellence and innovation. "It is gratifying that we get recognition not only from the construction community but from the IT community," said the unstoppable Phil Go. "It means we are doing something right."

THE STAMP OF APPROVAL

After fourteen months in the making, Barton Malow's new headquarters was officially unveiled on November 19, 2001, marking a new milestone in this successful and well-respected company's history. Barton Malow's Move Management Committee planned the move a year in advance, donating much of the old furniture stock to the nonprofit Arthritis Foundation and moving different departments over the course of three consecutive weekends in November. The Information Technology Department transferred computers and IT infrastructure to the new facility, hooking up computers by early Monday morning to help inaugurate a new era for the 78-year-old firm. "Everyone had four hours to unpack their personal workstations on Monday, and by noon, everyone was up and functioning - which was amazing for a company of this size," said Sheryl Maibach.

"Our old space was so crowded and I was as excited as anybody to be in a building that we designed and built ourselves," said Maibach. "It is an absolute pleasure to get up and come to work in this building." Many others have expressed similar sentiments. After two open houses, the accolades poured in from clients, employees, the community and industry competitors.

"One of the things that told me immediately how proud our people are of the building is when many began asking to host their professional association meetings - whether it be BOMA, AGC, AIA or SMPS - in the building," said Maibach.

Built with the aid of every tool in Barton Malow's corporate toolbox, the building itself is becoming a recruiting tool for new work and new employees. The firm has received a number of requests for proposals from owners impressed by the building's quality and innovation. "I believe the building will bring us new work," said Maibach. "It is a positive selling tool. ... Plus, the cafeteria, fitness center, resource library and learning center are very positive recruiting tools for new employees. It's a gorgeous building with an abundance of natural light, and that is important to many people."

The building may already be recruiting

the next generation. The new headquarters recently earned the stamp of approval from the most jaded and surly audience in America: the teenager. Ben Maibach relates the incident of a Barton Malow employee who invited his 10th grade daughter to view the new building after school. "She said, 'Oh, I don't want to see another building,' " recalled Maibach. "But when she came to the building, she said, 'That's a neat building, I want to work there!' And she kept on talking about the building for quite a while in the car."

Added Doug Maibach, "I have received many positive comments from competitors in the industry who appreciate the building's quality. ...This is what architecture and construction is all about. The disciplines do more than just provide a roof and a shelter; it makes you feel good about what you are doing and how you did it."

The building has already earned an Engineering Society of Detroit Award and a national award from the Design-Build Institute of America, as well as the honor of being named Development of the Year by the City of Southfield. This stellar building is destined to become a community landmark and a fitting testament to the disciplines of architecture, engineering and construction.

"The Headquarter Committee and the task teams have hit the mark, individually and collectively, in a better manner than what I think initially anyone would have thought feasible," said Ben Maibach. "I give them a great deal of credit on a job well done."

The new facility is boosting the sense of teamwork and quality that has lead ENR to rank Barton Malow highly in several niche markets, including a rank of second nationally in education, third in sports facilities, fourth in automotive and sixth in health-care facilities. "In our own building, people have gotten to know each other better and informally share information," said Maibach. "The new building allows us a higher degree of efficiency, effectiveness, and improved communications. Collectively, we work at a higher plane."

Barton Malow has created a fitting home for itself, an inspired development for the community and region ... and has helped preserve the nesting grounds of local wildlife. "We are proud to be a Michigan firm that has worked to preserve and protect our natural resources," said Maibach.

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